



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. JOSEPH MAN INDICTED FOR ENTICING A MINOR FOR SEX

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a St. Joseph, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for enticing a minor for sex.

Jason E. Stephens, 24, of St. Joseph, was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Stephens** used a Yahoo Internet chat room between April 13 and 21, 2004, to entice a female under the age of 18 to engage in sex.

Count Two of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Stephens** to forfeit to the government all property used to commit the offense alleged in Count One, including a Hewlett-Packard computer and five CD-ROM disks that were seized by law enforcement officers on April 21, 2004.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Cowles. It was investigated by the Platte County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Buchanan County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow